

Gibraltar and Round About [COPYRIGHT 1892, BY EDGAR L. WAKEMAN.]
Special Correspondance of the Intelligencer.

GIBRALTAR, Jan. 20,-I believe that one of the greatest glories of intelligent Americanism lies in the fact that, as a people, we are receptive of reasonable and just ideas, and are susceptible of conversion from hereditary pejudice and the mean and little spirit of hatred and envy towards another nation because of any superiority of policy or possession it may be great enough to pursue or enjoy.

This conviction came to me more overwhelmingly than over before, as we steamed away from the land of the Moors and took our way across the strait towards the city and Rock of Gibraltar. Upon the Northern Pillar of Hercules the English flag has floated for 188 years. And I am glad of it; glad that Sir George Rooke, in the War of Secssion, was cunning and brave enough to take it; that iron-hearted Elliott in the Four Years' Siege was soldier enough to hold it against the combined efforts of France and Spain; and that all the powers of Latin and Musselman arms and diplomacy, with the cowardly machinations of English traitors at home, have never availed to hand over this key of the whole Levant to Spanish or other possession or retro-Moors and took our way across the to Spanish or other possession or retro-

gression; because:
Just so long as England holds Gibraltar the trade of the Mediterranean and the East is peacefully open not only to, England but to every nation of the earth with spirit enough to compete for it; and North America, whose English speaking and thinking people now twice outnumber those of the motherland, in common with Great Britain, in trade in travel and in all those things trade, in travel, and in all those things tending towards the world's enlighten-ment and progress, will enjoy through England's dogged possession of Gibrat-

England's dogged possession of Gibrattar, a common guarantee of security and respect.

If, as I have done, you will tramp through the provinces of France; wander afoot from Finisterre by Valladolid to Madrid and thence across the Spanish sierras to Barcelona and the sea; know Portugal from Lisbon to the Mediterra-Portugal from Lisbon to the Mediterra-nean gate; idle among the peasants and shepherds of Italy from the Pyra-nees to remotest Apulian shores; tramp from Sicilian Catania over old Ætna to fair Palermo; and then, in Algiers and Morocco, come close enough to the peo-ple to know the repulsive nature and life of the Arab and Moor; you will never have to learn from any other source this true thing—that at heart and as a whole, the Latin races whether in southern Europe or in South Ameriand as a whole, the Latin races whether in southern Europe or in South America, possess as deep and lasting a hereditary hatred of all who own and speak the English tongue, as fadelessly fires the Moslem heart in its fanatical dream of sometime everywhere planting the crescent above the cross. crescent above the cross.

of sometime everywhere planting the crescent above the cross.

Differ as grieviously as Americans may with Englishmen regarding the justice of injustice of this or that, on these large lines of tremendous import we cannot but remain one and indissoluble. Looking out of the history of the centuries that were, and from among the possibilities of the centuries to come, the mighty Rock and its armament fades from sight as a mere stubbornly held possession and menace. Its mythic name, the Pillar of Hurcules, merges into the Pillar of Peace. And Gibraltar in the possession of the English speaking and Christian living race will remain the hostage of Christian civilization for all time to come.

IMPRESSIONS.

All one's preconceived notions of Gibratar fall far short, I think, of conveying its true grandeur and impressiveness. From whatever direction you approach it—from the westward over the Atlantic, from the Mediterranean on the east, from Tangier in Africa across the strait, or from the Spanish sierras to the north—it has always the seem-ing of a majestle mountain of stone rising sheer out of the blue of the sea.

As we approached it, some straggling clouds which had formed among the clouds which had formed among the peaks of the Spanish sierras, carried by northern winds, were stretched in thin folds across its upper heights. They gave the huge rock alternate bars of ebony shadow and golden light, and, shutting its top altogether from sight, emphasized the impression of a mysterious altitude. ious altitude.

Even when one is landed, the easiest affair of its kind in all Europe, as Gibraltar is a free port, this impression is not dispelled. The white city, a pile of huddled terraces at the water's edge at the only spot on all Gibraltar where hibitations could be patched like nests of hide water its regardless.

nuadied terraces at the water's edge at the only spot on all Gibraltar where hibitations could be patched like nests of birds upon its ragged sides, is but a thin line of human resort upon and above the shore. Wherever the eye rests is sea beneath, and rock above; not very precipitous on the city side, yet rising in escarped height on height, until one feels certain that inaccessible heights are shut from sight beyond.

My own first impulse, as I believe must be that of all first visitors here, was to mount its utmost crag and study its topography with my own eyes, while feasting upon the matchless panorama thus afforded. In two hours, time, including the dignified delay required in the issuance of a permit by the military secretary, in Gunner's Lane, I stood alongside the signal tower, El Hacho, from which, it is said, with a powerful glass the Bay of Biscay can be seen, while the valley in which is built the capital of Morocco, the city of Fez, is plainly discerned.

Impregnable Gilbraltar upon which one now stands is the outjutting promontory of a long, narrow strip of land and rock, forming a peninsula on the eastern shore of the Bay of Gilbraltar, or Algeeiras, as it is sometimes called. The latter is shaped like a horse-shee, open to the south, its western shore extermity terminating in Cabrita Point. This bay is perhaps eight miles long from north to south, and five miles broad from east towest. The peninsula terminating in the Rock, slopes gradually down from the Spanish mountains to the Spanish lines, just north of the ruins of the old Spanish fortifications, and between this and the Rock is what is known as Neutral Ground, a flat sandy reach, a mile and a half in length. Upon this, close to the Rock, are the English race-course, the drill-ground and the Jowish and the garrison come.

able by a land force through engineer strip could in an instant be blown to powder and covered by the sea.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FORTRESS.

At the southern end of this sand covered bed of mines the Rock rises almost perpendicularly for over 1,400 feet. Many fancy its contour resembles a lion concinant. With its head reared aloft to the north and towards Spain. It is grand enough without the simile; breaking away in lessening crags to the south and again confronting Africa with a lesser but none the less insurmountable wall of stone, about whose base the sea ceaselessly rears and lashes, flinging the spinne and spray to tremendous heights among the crags at Europa Point. It is three miles from its landward face of rock to its seaward front of stone. The average width of the huge monolith is three-fourths of a mile. The Rock, practically sea-encircled, is perpendicularly for over 1,400 .feet. The Rock, practically sea-encircled, is completely girdled at its base with can-non. Cannon protrude from innumer-able bastions and outworks from base to peak. Cannon, hundreds of them, are behind port-holes, cut from the solid rock, in hewn chambers beneath the mountain, tier on the and miles in length. Cannon are upon every crag and precipice upon its very peaks. It is a stupendous mountain of stone out of whose sides, at every angle, can be poured more awful destruction than ever issued from the very craters of Etna and Vesuvius.

Etna and Vesuvius.

Barring the comparably few cannon upon the heights, it is all peaceful enough in appearance where you stand beside the signal station. Profity foot and donkey paths wind to shaded roadways below. Over to the east the Rock falls sheer 1,400 feet to the Mediterragen. Away down there like a line of falls sheer 1,400 feet to the Mediterranean. Away down there like a line of
seafoam and driftwood cast upon a
thread of shingly shore beneath gray
precipices, lies little Catalan, the lonesomest and most picturesque fishing
village in all Europe. It is said some
Genoese fishermen were shipwrecked
here, and fastened to the rocks like
things of the sea, a thousand or so years
ago. Sometimes great columns of
stone, falling from a quarter of a mile
above them, crash through their white
shells of houses and grind a score of
souls into the flinty shore. The thunders of siege have no terrors for them.

shells of houses and grind a score of souls into the flinty shore. The thunders of siege have no terrors for them. They cannot be dislodged. And they remain there, the only things of life on Gibraltar's Mediterranean shore.

Just opposite the "Northern Pinnacle," on the western shore, the Old Mole or breakwater extends 1,100 feet into the bay. Just one half the distance from this fo Europa Point the New mole has been pushed into the sea nearly 1,000 feet. Here is safe anchorage for the entire merchant and battle ships of Great Britain. At any time several hundred craft of all nations may be seen in 'the bay of Gibraltar; while converging or diverging towards and from the narrow strait dividing two continents, are ever in view stately processions of the trade argosies of the world; some under sails white as seagulls' wings, and some trailing behind their huge funnels what, from your dizzy height, seem like delicately penciled fronds of shadow upon the radiant water's blue.

Down there between the two moles you can see the flat roofs of the city

Down there between the two moles you can see the flat roofs of the city crouching beneath the crags. At its northern end, just abreast of the Old northern end, just abreast of the Old Mole, and well up the mountain side, which on the west is less precipitous than elsewhere, stands a luge Moorish tower, just 1,250 years old, built by the first Moorish invaders, and the most ancient perfectly preserved relic of Moslem rule in Spain. It is atmost entire in its massive strength, though honeycombed by innumerable cannon bulls; while its great Tower of Homage is now a powder magazine, while modern barracks and officers' quarters with pleasant gardens fill the area within its pleasant gardens fill the area within its ancient walls.

crn barracks and officers' quarters with pleasant gardens fill the area within its nacient walls.

GLOWING PEN PICTURES.

To the south, Africa seems but a step across a gleaming pool. To the east there is only the vast Mediterranean, dotted with many strange and curious craft. To the west, the sight ranges over a beautiful and picturesque harbor seene, with every manner of ship that floats, from the loviathan man-of-war to the lateen sailed felluca, including a half dozei American schooners and barks with their shapely hulls and slender spars, and rests beyond the waters of the bay upon the circling Spanish shore. There is Cabrita Point, darkening grimly against a background of flame where the setting sun floods the outrance from the Atlantic. Around to the northwest Algeciras ghostlike lifts through the purpling pall. To the north, acro of willas and villages pink or white as the light and shadows changefully play upon them, show, like the ivory beds of a rosary, against ranges of aloes and masses of vineyards; the whole with a background of billow; foothill, dark, then blue, then purple, and finally an opaline misty dream where the peaks of the Spanish sierras blend with the far horizon of the north. All this is what one can see at El Hache upon the heights of Gibraltar; but what wraiths of history, mythic and real, crowd from the past upon the wondrous seenel. This spot where you stand, and towering Apes' Hill, across the Strait in Africa, were the olden Pllars of Hercules. Down beneath you at Europia. Point is the very spot where the divine bull rested from his flight with Europia, to whom the continent owes its name. Just across the Strait at Ceuta, the traitorous Count. Julian, ontlaw from Roderick's licentious Toledo court, first betrayed Spain to the Moslems. The resultant invasion under command of Tarek Ibn Zeyad, then chief of the garrison of Tangie, gave to the rock the name of Gibel-al-Tarek, mountain of Tark, corrupted to the Gibrard the past of the p

or Algeeiras, as it is sometimes called. The latter is shaped like a horse-shee, open to the south, its western shore extremity terminating in Cabrita Point. This bay is perhaps eight miles long from north to south, and five miles broad from east to west. The peninsula terminating in the Rock, slopes gradually down from the Spanish mountains to the Spanish lines, just north of the ruins of the old Spanish fortifications, and between this and the Rock is what is known as Neutral Ground, a flat sandy reach, a mile and a half in length. Upon this, close to the Rock, are the English race-course, the drill-ground and the Jowish and the garrison cemeteries. The narrow strip connecting Gibraltar with the mainland has every appearance of having been beneath the waves at no remote date, and the English have rendered Gibraltar unassail-

mountain top behind, melodious with bugle notes echoing and re-echoing their songful mimicry of war from har-borside to darkened clefts of black and serried heights.

A SPOT OF RARE INTEREST.

If Gibraltar were not unique and the most gigantic fortress in the world, it would still be a spot of rarest interest would still be a spot of rarest interest and charm to the traveler. The scenic beauties from any portion of the embattled mountain are not surpassed in the whole 2,000 miles' reach of the Mediterranean. Two continents and three kingdoms are here within cannon shot of wherever you may stand. The rides and drives into the most luxurient and fruitful portion of Southern Spain, all within a day's journey, bring within observation and enjoyment every feature of high or low Spanish life which could be studied in a journey from France to Portugal.

Portugal,
And then the Rock and city of Gibraltar themselves, contrary to prevalent notions, are each in their way wonder-ful and winsome studies of still and hunotions, are each in their way wonderful and winsome studies of still and human life. The botanist can find upon the sides of this one Rock over 500 distinct species of vegetable life in flower, shrub, lichen, moss and vine. The tiny gardens are ablaze even in winter with gorgeous color and bloom. Far up the heights the walled and winding roadways are bordered with masses of green and blossom. The washerwomen dry their clothes on hedges of geranium. The prickly pear and cactus grow to enormous size. The aloe rears its central shoots, with lateral branches, like spears of gigantic asparagus. Hugo oleanders glow above every terraced garden wall. The night blooming Cereus grows in spleudid luxuriance, resembling mammeth water-lilies with delicate anthers of gold. Everywhere with leaves of glossy green, the orange tree, hinting of tropical clime, bestows its welcome shade and delicate scents, wanton in the produgality with which all nature here seems to rival historie

tree, hinting of tropical clime, bestows its welcome shade and delicate scents, wanton in the prodigality with which all nature here seems to rival historic interest and grand, surpassing scene.

And of the city? It has 20,000 souls exclusive of the 5,000 to 6,000 officers and men of the garrison. Terrace on terrace it threads along the water's edge. It is a mass of archways, stairs, subterranean thoroughfares, spiral passages, viaduets, vaulting footways, narrow vistas broken by quaintest corners, angles, balconies, and roofs, and altogether the strangest, most curious and winsome jumble of human habitations and thoroughfares men ever built to shelter men and trade. Then of the folk of Gibraltar; were you to get together from all Spanish cities their most characteristic lowly; bring from Genoa and Naples their most picturesque fishermen; nunt Tangier and Fez for weirdest Berber, Kahbayle, Moor and Jew; and dragnet the entire Meditorranean shoals for waterside folk that looked the fisher, smuzgler and pirate in one; and thread among all these the scarlet and blue of thousands of the soldiery and artillerymen of the great in one; and thread among all these the scarlet and blue of thousands of the soldiery and artillerymen of the great fortress, you would still have a no more varied changeful, weird and colorful scode than at any hour of any day your eyes may behold, from the Almeda garden below the Moorish Tower, down through the Waterport street, in this Moorish-built, Spanish-funished and English-held olden fortress town.

EDGAR L. WAKEMAN.

"A Chestnut." As to the origin of the term "chestnut" for a stale story, Joseph Jefferson,
the actor, has ventured a solution of
this question that will standuntil a better one is offered. He says that many
years ago there was a popular play
called "The Broken Sword." In its cast
were two characters, Capt. Navier, a
Munchausen, and Pablo, the comedian.
At a certain point in the play the captain exclaims: "I entered the woods
Colloway, when suddenly from the
bough of a cork tree"—"chestnut," interrupts Pablo, "cork tree, I said,"
returns the captain, turning on his interrupts Pablo, "cork tree, I said,"
returns the captain, turning on his interrpreter. "But I say chestnut," says
Pablo, and I ought to know, for I have
heard you tell that story twenty-soven
times." When the popularity of the
play was at its height, the part of Pablo
was taken by an actor named William
Warren, and at a dinner at which he
was present, a prosy, tiresome guest began the narration of a story well known
to the entire company. "Chestnut,"
said Warren softly, almost involuntarily
following his stage language; "I have
heard you tell that tale these twentyseven times." It is bolieved that from As to the origin of the term said warren sonly, almost involuntarily following his stage language; "I have heard you tell that tale these twenty-seven times." It is believed that from this quotation by Warren of the words of the play the word "chestnut" came into use as applying to an old jest.

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